

4-1947

The Rouen Post, April 1947

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"The Rouen Post, April 1947" (1947). *The Rouen Post*. Paper 104.
https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/rouen_post/104

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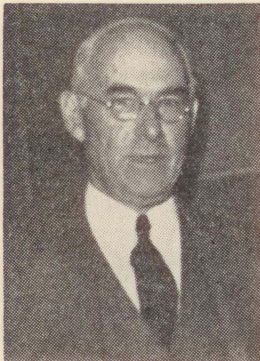
THE ROUEN POST

Base Hospital 21 — World War I

21st Gen. Hosp. — World War II

A PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ROUEN POST No. 242

DR. M. B. CLOPTON DIES



Dr. Malvern B. Clopton, former chief surgeon of Base Hospital 21 and commanding officer of Mobile Hospital 4 comprised of personnel from unit 21, died April 21, 1947 at Wianno, Mass., following a long illness. He was 71 years old and had been living at Wianno for the last several years following his re-

tirement from active participation in Washington University affairs, of which institution he served as president from 1932 until his retirement in 1942.

Dr. Clopton was a distinguished surgeon, but his interests were never confined to the field in which he won eminence. Much of his time and talents were devoted to Washington University. He joined the faculty of the School of Medicine in 1906 and his association with the university continued until his death although inactive since 1942. Dr. Clopton was chief of staff at St. Luke's Hospital and he was a member of the State Board of Health from 1937 to 1940, serving as president most of that period.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rt. Rev. William Scarlett, Episcopal Bishop of Missouri, from Christ Church Cathedral with burial in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

The son of the late William H. and Belle Bryan Clopton. Dr. Clopton was born in St. Louis Oct. 8, 1875. He was educated in St. Louis schools and received his M.D. degree from the University of Virginia in 1887.

The same year he began the practice of surgery in St. Louis. He maintained offices in the Beaumont Building and his St. Louis residence for many years was at 5391 Waterman boulevard.

At commencement exercises, in 1942 when Dr. Clopton resigned as president of Washington University, he received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the university.

Dr. Clopton made a number of gifts to Washington University. In 1931 he gave an important collection of more than 200 prints to the school. No value was placed on the collection, but included were works by Rembrandt, Duerer, James McNeill Whistler, Francisco Goya and Anders L. Zorn.

He donated the \$100,000 operating floor of the Rand-Johnson surgical wing of Barnes Hospital in 1930.

Dr. Clopton's 850-acre Brookhill Farm near Clarksville, Mo., one of the show places of Pike county, was given to the university medical school in 1944 for research in the relation of soil to human health and body-building. In connection with the gift, he established a \$100,000 endowment fund, the income of which is used for the research.

The farm, in two units, was operated by Dr. Clopton in a manner designed to minimize erosion and increase fertility. A herd of pure-bred Jersey cattle is on the farm, and Dr. Clopton raised many fine saddle horses, including his favorite, Veto, which won many show prizes.

Among Dr. Clopton's other interests was sailing. In 1928 he was a guest of Gerald B. Lambert, his brother-in-law, on Lambert's yacht "Atlantic" which finished second in a race from New York to Spain for a cup offered by the late King Alfonso of Spain.

At one time Dr. Clopton was president of the Missouri Association of Occupational Therapy.

Survived by Second Wife

He is survived by his second wife, the former Mrs. Rachel Lowe Lambert, whom he married in 1934.

Dr. Clopton's first wife, Mrs. Lily Lam-

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bert Walker Clopton, daughter of the late Jordan W. Lambert, founder of the Lambert Pharmacal Co., died in 1911. She left an estate valued at \$4,898,416 to her son by a former marriage, James Theodore Walker.

The latter bequeathed \$3,750,000 to Dr. Clopton when he died in an airplane crash in 1927 immediately following his graduation from Princeton University.

Dr. Clopton also is survived by a sister, Mrs. Elkin Franklin, 5391 Waterman, and a brother, William H. Clopton, Washington, D. C.

In 1938 former members of Mobile Hospital 4 and Base Hospital 21, joined in observance of the 19th anniversary of the Mobile Unit's return to Rouen, France from the Meuse-Argonne sector and to pay tribute to Colonel Clopton former commanding officer of Mobile 4. From THE ROUEN POST of February, 1938 we quote: "Colonel Malvern B. Clopton, a leader who attached more importance to being a gentleman than a soldier, was the honor guest on this occasion and the former members of his command presented him with a parchment scroll expressing appreciation of his inspiring leadership during the summer and autumn of 1918. The Colonel made a brief talk in which he thanked the members of Mobile 4 for the testimonial of their esteem and assured them that he would always be proud of their co-operation during the trying days and nights at La Grange au Bois and Cheppy where the unit was cited for distinguished service by Major General C. F. Summerall, Commander of the Fifth Army Corps, A.E.F.

"I feel there were times when I failed to do all that I should have done for you," said the Colonel, "and I'm afraid that I wasn't a very good commanding officer. But we had a job which required adjustment to the army pattern and I believe we did well despite our previous training which was anything but military."

We, of Base Hospital 21 and Mobile Unit 4 deeply mourn the passing of our comrade and friend, Dr. Clopton. The community has suffered an irreparable loss.

The life of Dr. Clopton was cited as "one of inspiration" by speakers Sunday at memo-

rial services held in his honor at Grace Episcopal Church, Clarksville, Mo.

The speakers included Rev. David Coombs, rector of the church; Harry Brookings Wallace, president of the university corporation; University Chancellor Arthur H. Compton, and Dr. Evarts A. Graham, professor of surgery at the university's medical school.

Dr. Graham paid tribute to Dr. Clopton "as a friend and philanthropist" whom he had known for 30 years. Compton declared that the late educator had left "an inheritance in Washington University from which those who followed him have benefitted." Wallace reflected on Dr. Clopton's success in "bringing the university through trying times."

Rev. Coombs, his pastor for 24 years, remembered the surgeon as a "man of simple faith with a belief in people." More than 250 persons attended in the service.

KNUTE KNUITSEN CHECKS IN

1237 Wrightwood Ave.

April 19, 1947

Chicago 14, Ill.

Dear Col. "Pat"—

After due consideration, I feel that Rouen Post is the only post where I will be able to keep contacts fresh with the good old 21sters. So, I would like to be accepted as a member. I am absolutely devastated when I realize that I can not be present at your reunion in May! However, I will be in Copenhagen at that date—so—oo—I suppose you can't have everything. But from what I hear in Chi. there's going to be quite a contingent of Chicagoans at the big meet. Alex Berman, Stan Goldberg, (my dentist!), Bernie Green, Virginia Schulz Childers, (she's blessed eventing in May—I believe) and many others whom I know of, but don't see—have been talking about going—to make it a real 21 party—and I could just weep in exasperation—to think I'll miss choir practice—cotage B variety!!! Who'll attend to the traditional lipstick decor on your sweet little pate? Oh, dear—woe is me. At least, please miss me a little! And just think—no Lydia Pinkham to brighten the wee hours. Well, believe me, next year I won't miss that gathering for

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love or money!! When I hit Naples I'll take a quick look and see if I am able to "feel" the spirit of the 21st in the "Salon de Concert" at Terme d'Agnano—or the Orange Club. Am also going to peek in at Hotel Excelsior in Rome—ah! what memories! when the 1st Armored Div. "owned" the place by virtue of it's vast numbers. Have my visas all in order, most of my packing done or planned and take off on May 9th from Hoboken on the goode shippe "Gripsholm". Am doing my European "wool-gathering" by air, tho, to save time. Four days in Italy and 10 days in Prague, Pilsen and Klatovy. It should be fun, don't you think? I'm rather a sad sack in spots, tho'—don't have the staying power I used to have—just when the fun is going good, I'm suddenly, just too-too tired to live—and it makes me mad—I miss so darned much—I go home to bed and so dwindleth a great spirit of fun, pep, zip or what you will!! Ain't it saaaaad?? Ho Hum that's enough about me? How are you and your sweet wife?? Give my best to her.

I just love that paper you have been sending me, don't miss me on that. My copies are in Nebraska now—the beauteous Alice Kokrda Lewis is reading them. How about sending them to Alice too? The address is simply—Scotia, Nebraska. I finally visited her and Jim last week. She is pretty as ever and just as sweet—has a lovely home, a beautiful little daughter name of Linda (after my middle name Lind!) and a new baby expected in late August. Jim is doing fine—making surprisingly large sums as a country doctor—he's well-liked there and I spent several hours in his office, and the patients came in a steady stream. I was truly surprised. Alice is very happy and is a grand mother and wife and Jim is a good husband and father—it was a nice happy home to visit. The evenings were spent reminiscing—Bou Hanifia—the starlit roof—your singing on the mike, loud, not good—all the 21st memories—the time the rain flooded the N.P. ward and a pt. picked me up bodily and set me down in 4 ft. of water and me with permanent wave curlers in my hair!! Oh brother what a day! Well—Pat—I hope this will be just one of many happy reunions for us all. As time goes on, I hear more and more good things about the 21st—and become

prouder and prouder that I was a 21ster. If I had it to do over again I'd do it again—we were so blessed with a C.O. who let us get around all he was able—and tho' he darned near worked us to death—we can relax now and say: We're the Biggest and Best Aspidistra of them all! Apologies to Gracie Fields! I won't even begin on Miss Spalding—will just say she's the grandest—most understanding woman I've ever had the good fortune to work under, and to know!

Yes, we were certainly fortunate to have such an outfit—it was not given to many to be so lucky in this war. I'll always be strictly sentimental about the 21st and hope we hold together for many years—in spirit—and in body at the reunions.

All my best wishes to everyone I know

THIS AND THAT

Twins arrived January first at the Reichelderfer residence in Circleville, Ohio. Tom and Ann (Hart) seem right well pleased with Suzanne and Mary Beth . . . Sal Calabrin was married the latter part of January. Pictures reveal the bride to be beautiful and Sal to be losing on weight . . . Dorothy Kros is in Manila. She tells of a rough trip over. And those who remember Dotty can realize how good Manila looked. She is in a station hospital at old Fort Wm. McKinley . . . Dave Hollander is in Los Angeles. He reports his wife improved . . . Bill Schilling has had a long siege of getting his lungs to treat him right. Things are definitely better and the outlook is good he writes . . . Robert Higley is progressing well in the field of accountancy. He is in Chicago . . . Gilbert Gifford writes enthusiastically and prosperously of life in the northwest. He and his wife are living in Spokane, Washington . . . Wm. D. Murphee, Jr. is in Huntsville, Alabama. Probabilities are that Bill is spending a fair amount of time on the baseball diamond this time of year . . . Charles Kovnrik sends word from Chicago that a considerable group of them get together frequently . . . Joe Composto reports a change of address. He now resides at 2317 Ocean Parkway, New York. Says he likes the ROUEN POST and does not want to miss any copies . . . Each of the foregoing are former members of the 21st

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General. C. J. "Rabbi" Fox, of Base Hospital 21, located at 215 South Olive Avenue, West Pine Beach, Florida, recently wrote "camel-herder" Nushan and enclosed an interesting letter from an officer friend now stationed at Rouen, together with "Tour Guide" of Rouen, France published by the Eleventh Port, United States Army. We will have these available for the lads and lassies during the reunion.

F. R. Crouch of Farmington, Missouri, reports the arrival of John Richard on March 1 . . . Chester V. Ciancarelli writes from Brooklyn asking his name be placed on our mailing list . . . It is reported that Reverend Cornelius Hook of boar hunting fame (more about his exploits in a later issue) is at the Veterans' Hospital at Minneapolis and Jacob Katz is at the Veterans' Hospital at Fort Howard, Maryland.

DR. ARTHUR W. PROETZ TO HEAD THE LARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Arthur W. Proetz, 12 Westmoreland place, St. Louis, a former member of Base Hospital 21 was elected president of the American Laryngological Society, concluding a two-day meeting at Hotel Statler last week. He took office at once. This is the world's oldest laryngological society, having

been established 68 years ago, with a limited invitation membership of medical specialists.

MARSE JESSE LASATER OF TEXAS VISITS US

"Marse" Jesse spent last week-end in St. Louis to get in practice for our forthcoming reunion. A delightful chap, one who is easy to be with and we were sorry he had to leave so soon.

Jesse has changed but little in appearance excepting he has increased his weight from 140 to 170 pounds—most if it in the mid-section. Being a successful barrister, land titalist and income tax expert was not sufficient for our comrade. He has approximately 5000 acres in northeast Texas which is cultivated by 20 tenant farmers. Lasater's ideas of relationship between landowner and share-cropper is vastly different from the picture so often painted to us. He believes in giving them an opportunity to better themselves thru the proper education for their children, churches, playgrounds and other forms of amusement. His holdings have been increasing steadily and he is making a profit hence the system must be workable.

The squire of Naples, Texas has written us a letter since his return assuring us of his presence for the reunion in May.

Advance reservations for the REUNIONS of both the Units indicate a splendid turn-out. You'll miss seeing a lot of your old friends and the opportunity of making new one's should you not be in St. Louis on—

MAY 23, 24 & 25, 1947

